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of the work but of the final chapter distinctly stated to be "in my own words." We can discover no difference in diction or turn of thought between the two parts.

There is a particular interest attaching to the last chapter, the events of 1846 with which the narrative closes, although Mrs. Salmon lived a long life after that. There are not wanting those in Tahiti who declare her a traitor. Certainly she acted on the side of the French and was the agent of Bruat in securing the surrender of Aimata, the last sovereign of the Pomare title. They had been brought up together as children, but Ariitaimai is at no pains to hide her disdain of such inferior royalty as that of the Pomares with their initial taint of Paumotu blood. Her narrative should be read in connection with the early chapters of Pritchard's "Polynesian Reminiscences." She pays her respects to the elder Pritchard. More gallant or less observant, the junior Pritchard leaves her out of his somewhat envenomed narrative of the same events. Yet it matters little now. It would be vanity indeed to seek to find out verities in the fated downfall before European needs of an impractical South Sea monarchy.

It is a most interesting volume yet one which may not safely be cited haphazard as authority.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Geology of the Whangaroa Subdivision, Hokianga Division.

By J. M. Bell and E. de C. Clarke, New Zealand Geol. Survey, Department of Mines, *Bull.* 8 (N. S.) pp. 1-115, 17 illustrations, 8 maps, and 4 geological sections. Wellington, N. Z., 1909.

This report continues the description of New Zealand along lines laid down in the first reports of the series. The division forms the northern part of the mainland of North Island. In the first chapter is an excellent description of the chief geographic features of the region, the fauna, flora, timber, climate, early history, population, industries and means of communication. Of special interest is the description of the Kauri Bush, and the discussion of the various types of vegetation that respond in their distribution and character to the physical geography of the region. On p. 16 is a description of the lumbering methods employed where the rough country and lack of population make ordinary methods difficult.

Perhaps the most curious industry is the gathering of kauri gum that still supports a kind of semi-nomadic population. The gum is dug from almost treeless gumfields where once great forests stood that were probably destroyed by the Maoris. The gum is usually but a few inches below the surface and in the swamps is found at all levels as far as ten feet below. The earth is probed with a spear and when a find is made the gum is either unearthed by digging or is brought to the surface by a hooked spear.

The chief physiographic features may be described as an uplifted and faulted peneplain maturely dissected, and, more recently, slightly depressed. Two erosion levels have been identified, each ancient surface having been to a certain extent masked by lavas and breccias before uplift and dissection began. The various topographic districts to which these events gave rise are discussed in detail. The description of the many interesting shore features is especially full and well illustrated. The greater part of the report deals with the geology of the region with especial reference to the occurrence and development of economic resources.

ISAIAH BOWMAN.